

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DEFMIN AVEROFF'S STATEMENTS ON SHIP VISITS

1. FOLLOWING SUBMISSION BY PASOK DEPUTY KOUTSOHERAS OF A PARLIAMENTARY QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE SIXTH FLEET ENDANGERED THE ENVIRONMENT AND HENCE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE ATTICA REGION, DEFMIN AVEROFF PROVIDED A WRITTEN REPLY, PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 28 PARLIAMENTARY MINUTES (AND THUS PREPARED PRIOR TO THE JANUARY 27 CORFU INCIDENT), "ACKNOWLEDGING" THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SINCE JULY 20, 1974, GREECE HAS ACCEPTED NO REQUEST FOR SIXTH FLEET SHIPS TO ANCHOR IN PHALERON BAY;

B. THE PERIODIC VISITS OF UP TO SIX HOMEPORTED DESTROYERS IN ELEFSIS, WHERE A SPECIAL PEIR WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR THEM AT AMERICA EXPENSE, IS ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 8, 1973.

C. THE HOMEPORTED VESSELS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT, SINCE THEIR ENGINES ARE

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TURNED OFF WHEN THEY ARE TIED UP, THEIR TRASH IS REMOVED

BY SPECIAL TRUCKS OR BARGES, AND, SINCE NONE OF THESE VESSELS IS NUCLEAR-POWERED, THESE IS NO THREAT OF LEAKAGE OF "DANGEROUS RESIDUE."

D. IT WOULD "BE A BLESSING" IF ALL THE VESSELS WHICH FREQUENT THE SARONIC GULF, GREEK OR FOREIGN, WOULD RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT AS DO THE VESSELS OF THE SIXTH FLEET.

E. OTHER THAN THE AREA WHERE SWERE OUTLETS EXIST AND THE PIRAEUS PORT AREA, THE SARONIC GULF AREA IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE LCEANEST REGIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

2. AVEROFF WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE HOMEPORTING TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER AGREEMENTS CONCERNING FOREIGN BASES IN GREECE WERE NOW UNDER REVIEW AND, IN VIEW OF THIS, THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: AVEROFF IS INCORRECT IN ASSERTING THAT PHALERON BAY VISITS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AND REJECTED, SINCE NONE HAS BEEN REQUESTED, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, HOWEVER WE DO NOT INTEND TO CORRECT THE RECORD PUBLICLY AND WILL REFER PRESS QUERIES TO GOG.

KUBISCH

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